

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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ADB

SESSION 11

Linking the Missing Middle: Social Security for Gig and Platform Workers

MODERATOR



Oleksiy Ivaschenko
Senior Social Protection and Jobs Specialist
Human and Social Development Sector Office
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Alex (Oleksiy) Ivaschenko is a versatile development economist with 20 years of full-time work experience at the World Bank, UN and ADB with a focus on operations and analytical work related to social protection and labor, poverty analysis, migration, disaster risk management and impact evaluations. Alex has published in several development journals, including Journal of Comparative Economics, Disasters Journal, Journal of Development and Migration, Journal of Policy Modeling, Migration Letters, World Medical and Health Policy, Eastern European Economics, and Economic Development and Cultural Change. He holds Ph.D. in Development Economics from Gothenburg School of Economics (Sweden).

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Ashutosh Pednekar
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of India

Ashutosh A.T. Pednekar is a 2002 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. Currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment since 28 May 2025, he holds graduate and postgraduate diploma qualifications. His extensive career includes roles such as Secretary to Government, Chairman & MD, Director & MD, Chief Executive Officer, Commissioner, and District Collector and District Magistrate. He has received multiple awards, including the IT Innovation Award, Best

Collector Award (2012), and Dr. Subhash Dua Gold Medal for Best Probationer at LBSNAA Mussoorie. He is proficient in English, Hindi, and Marathi.



Gayatri Vadivel
Head of Employment Services Division Employment Insurance Office
PERKESO, Government of Malaysia

Gayathri is an experienced professional in disability management, employment services, job placement, active labor market programs and social protection, with extensive national and international experience.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business and Commerce and received specialized training in Counselling and Applied Psychology in Australia. Following her appointment with PERKESO, she was further trained by the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services of Australia in conjunction with the establishment of PERKESO's Return to Work Programme in 2007.

Gayathri is currently serving her second term as Vice-President of the Technical Commission on Employment Policies and Unemployment Insurance at the International Social Security Association.



Denise Monteiro
Social Protection Programme Manager
International Labour Organization
Country Office for Viet Nam

Denise Monteiro has over 15 years of experience in social protection, public policy, program management and international development, working closely with governments, social partners, UN agencies and development partners.

Before joining the ILO in Viet Nam, she led the ILO's social protection portfolio in Angola, where she supported major policy and institutional reforms, including the ratification of ILO Convention No. 102, improvements in

social protection and labour statistics, and the mobilization of significant development cooperation resources. She previously worked for the ILO in Mozambique, providing technical assistance on social protection policy, financing, coordination and system development.

Denise holds a Master's in Management of International Organizations from Bocconi University and a Master's in Social and Solidarity Economics from ISCTE-IU.



Liliia A. Kachkinbaeva
Employment, Future of Work, Jobs Consultant
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Liliia A. Kachkinbaeva is a Consultant with the Asian Development Bank's Human and Social Development Sector Office (SD3-HSD), specializing in employment, jobs, skills development, and the future of work. Her work focuses on advancing human capital development and strengthening workforce skills systems, including technical and vocational education and training (TVET), higher education, labor market development, and regional cooperation initiatives. She has contributed to ADB-supported programs that promote skills development, green skills, and just transition approaches across Central Asia under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program.